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at the Ariana in the park Revilliod, and the grand hall of the Museum;

The Business Association of Geneva will offer a night festival to the Congress, with Venetian illumination and a blaze of fire on the water front;

The Committee on Organization has provided a day's excursion for a complete tour of the Lake of Geneva;

The Government and the Municipality of Geneva will give an official dinner to the Delegates and their families. Other receptions are proposed, to the Delegates, to the Congress, and to individual Sections, by the President of the Congress and Mme. Arthur de Claparède, by M. Alfred Bertrand, Vice-President, and Mme. Bertrand; by M. Lucien Gautier, former President of the Geneva Geographical Society of Geneva, and Mme. Gautier; and by others.

A banquet will be given by the Geographical Society to celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary, and

A Special Committee will organize a gala representation in the open air, in honour of the Congress.

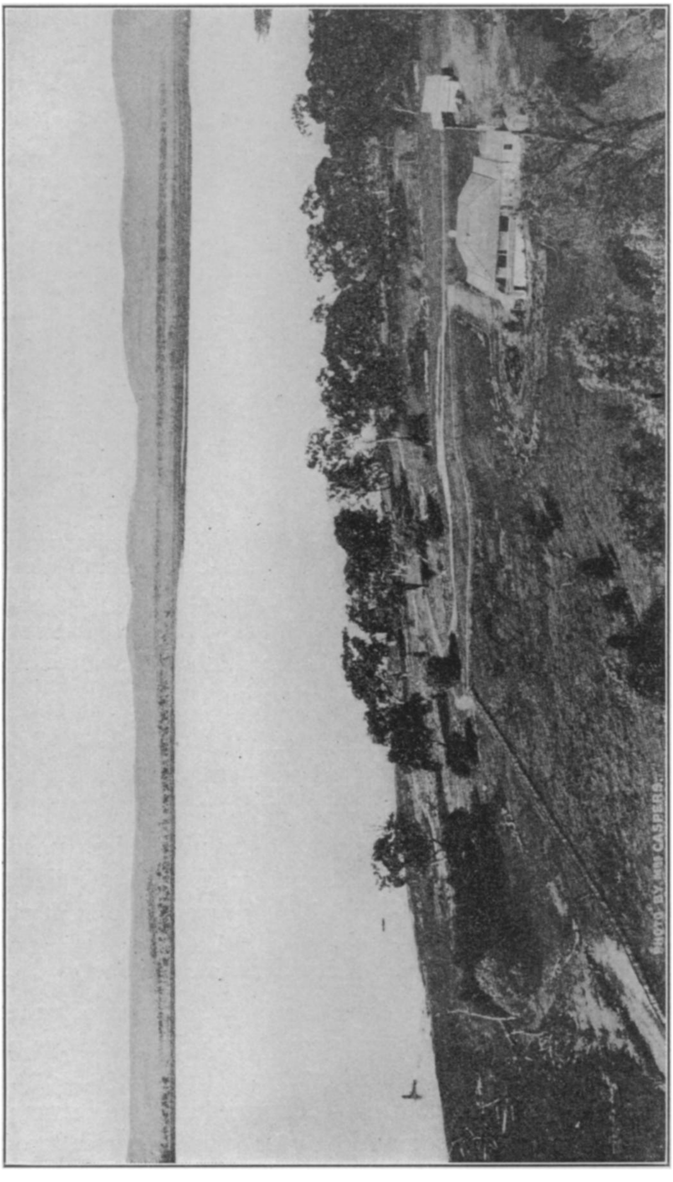
Eleven Governments, twelve universities and institutions, and sixty-nine societies will be represented, and the number of delegates enrolled on the 15th of February was 203.

The American Geographical Society will be represented by Messrs. Archer M. Huntington, William Libbey, Fordham Morris, Albert Perry Brigham and E. L. Stevenson.

LAKE GEORGE, AUSTRALIA.

Lake George, the largest lake in New South Wales, occupies an area of subsidence in the Blue Mountains about 135 miles to the southwest of Sydney. It is bounded on the west by a fault plane of about 400 feet drop. It is not always a lake, for at intervals it shrinks for years and finally becomes entirely dry. One of the accompanying pictures shows Lake George nearly full of water; the other shows a part of its bed when completely dry, as at the present time. Lake George was a lake in the years 1816-1830, 1852, 1864, and 1874-1900. Since 1900 it has been shrinking, and it was practically dry in 1905. The second picture shows sheep scattered over the lake floor, feeding on the grasses and the salt bush which flourish there and are much relished by these animals.

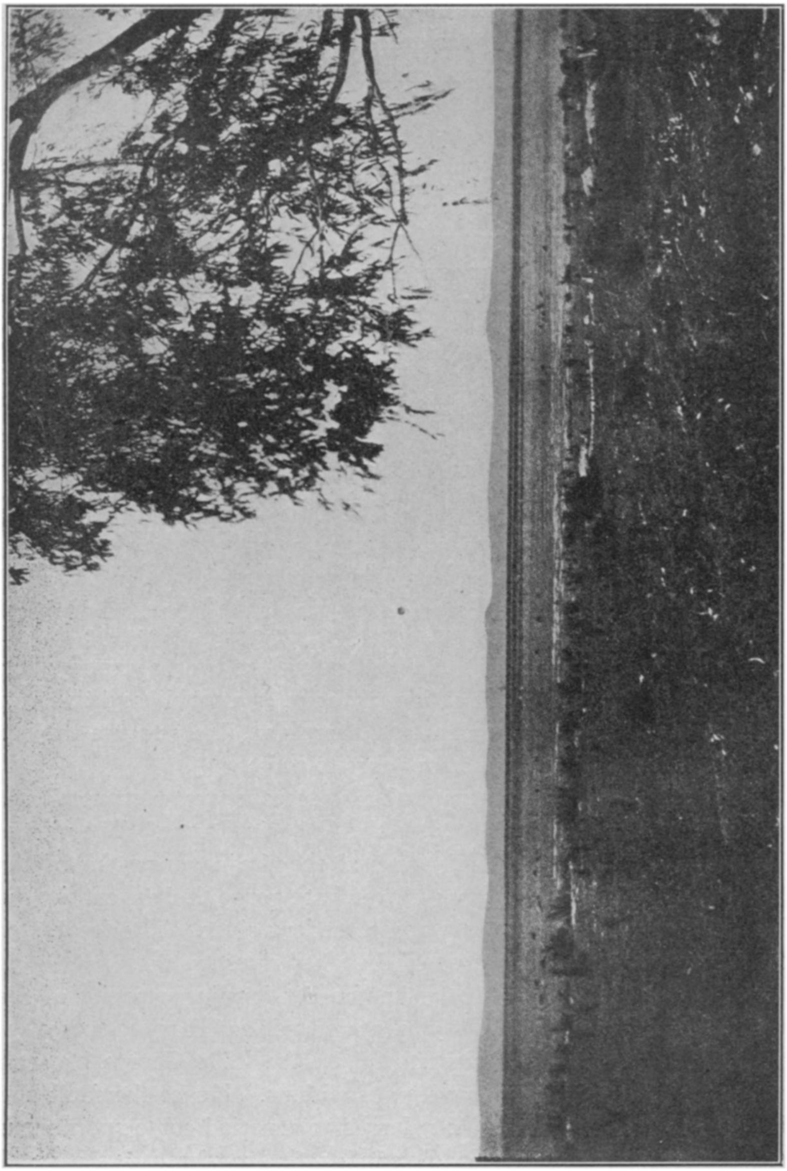
At the present time, the lake is portioned into grazing leases, and fences run nearly across the bed. The local sheep-breeders prefer the lake dry, since many extra sheep can be carried on their runs.



VIEW OF LAKE GEORGE IN 1884 WHEN NEARLY FULL OF WATER.

PHOTO BY MRS CASPERS.

At the same time the neglected boat houses, jetties, and the decaying boats and launches along the shore recall the old days when the lake teemed with Murray cod or carp, and when black ducks and other birds were in the habit of frequenting the huge sheet of water.



VIEW OF THE DRY BED OF LAKE GEORGE IN FEBRUARY, 1907.

These pictures are taken from the *Proceedings* of the Linnean Society of New South Wales for 1907 and illustrate a paper by Mr.

T. Griffith Taylor, lecturer in the University of Sydney, on the area of subsidence occupied by Lake George and the evolution of the lake.

It was described by the late Mr. H. C. Russell, as occupying the southern portion of a depression in the Cullarin Range called the Lake George Basin, 490 square miles in extent, and the only example in New South Wales of a purely inland drainage area. It is watered by several small streams, but has no visible outlet.

Mr. Taylor's studies of the physiography of this region seem to corroborate the theory that Lake George never had an outlet. No evidence of any flood more than thirty feet deep can be traced as having occurred for many hundreds of years, while nearly 200 feet are necessary to provide an outlet north, west or south. Probably since its inception the lake has been receiving silt which has gradually filled its bed.

A local flood has practically no effect on the lake. The dry silt acts as a huge sponge and absorbs a covering of several inches of water brought down by a deep creek or some other feeder in the course of a night. The conditions are extremely favourable for great evaporation. The wind may drive a layer of water several miles from the actual lowest spot, and before it can flow back the sun's heat has reclaimed it for the atmosphere. When the prevailing conditions are arid, the lake dries up. From 1828 to 1864 the lake was over 10 feet deep only in 1852. As far as can be judged from meteorological records not yet extending over a century, the indications point to a continuation of the present arid conditions for some time. The sheep herders are, therefore, likely to use the bed of the lake as grazing ground for years to come.

The great fault which hems in the lake on the west runs north and south for 30 miles and constitutes the Cullarin Range. The violent tectonic changes have entirely altered the drainage system of the district. The Molonglo flows through a gorge it has cut in the Cullarin Range, and is clearly an antecedent river. The feeders of Lake George once formed part of the Yass river system.

From a comparison with the known silt-forming capacity of the basin of the river Po, in Italy, a period of less than 20,000 years appears to have been sufficient to fill up the Lake George basin to its present silt level under modern conditions. Hence the fault and the area of subsidence may be referred to a period contemporaneous with the close of the Great Ice Age in North America.